

A2  
sub  
C1

8. (Amended) The product of claim 1 wherein the film former is Duracet 675-01, available from Franklin International.

A3  
sub  
C1

11. (Amended) The product of claim 1 wherein the thickener is chosen from the group consisting of Carbopol 941, Carbopol 981, and mixtures thereof, each available from B.F. Goodrich.

✓  
Please add new claims 16-20 to read as follows:

A4  
sub  
C1

16. (New) A string binder comprising:  
a fibrous substrate; and  
a chemical treatment coated to said fibrous substrate, said chemical treatment comprising an emulsified polyester resin, a curing agent, a film former, a thickener polymer, and water.

17. (New) The string binder of claim 16 further comprising a sizing composition, wherein said sizing composition is coupled between said fibrous substrate and said chemical treatment.

18. (New) The string binder of claim 16, wherein said film former is a vinyl polymer.

19. (New) The string binder of claim 16, wherein said thickener is an acrylic polymer.

20. (New) The string binder of claim 16, wherein said curing agent is a peroxide.